Keeping in touch

News and notes from
the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches.
5300 Santa Monica Boulevard, Suite 304, Los Angeles, CA 90029, (213) 464-5100.

SEPTEMBER, 1990

July, 1990
Top 20 Tithes

1.	MCC Dallas	Dallas, TX	$3,359.24
2.	MCC Washington	Washington, DC	2,169.92
3.	MCC Toronto	Ontario, CAN	1,995.64
4.	MCC Long Beach	Long Beach, CA	1,922.64
5.	MCC of the Resurrection	Houston, TX	1,805.84
6.	MCC San Francisco	San Francisco, CA	1,773.80
7.	MCC in the Valley	N. Hollywood, CA	1,659.17
8.	River City MCC	Sacramento, CA	1,376.56
9.	MCC Tampa	Tampa, FL	1,172.18
10.	MCC of the Rockies	Denver, CO	1,055.81
11.	King of Peace MCC	St. Petersburg, FL	967.34
12.	MCC Key West	Key West, FL	931.42
13.	St. Luke's MCC	Jacksonville, FL	862.47
14.	New Covenant MCC	Anaheim, CA	848.34
15.	Agape MCC of Ft. Worth	Ft. Worth, TX	819.70
16.	Christos MCC	Toronto, Ont., CAN	813.02
17.	Christ Alive MCC	Vancouver, BC, CAN	809.68
18.	MCC Austin	Austin, TX	766.19
19.	Joy MCC	Orlando, FL	658.82
20.	MCC of San Antonio	San Antonio, TX	600.40

July, 1990
Top 20 Per Capita

1.	New Covenant MCC	Anaheim, CA	85.69
2.	MCC New Freedom in Christ	Houston, TX	41.49
3.	MCC Mt. Vernon	Mt. Vernon, WA	29.57
4.	Calvary MCC	Redwood City, CA	24.99
5.	Christ the Redeemer MCC	Evanston, IL	24.85
6.	MCC of Northern Virginia	Oakton, VA	24.25
7.	New Life MCC	Berkeley, CA	23.64
8.	Open Arms MCC	Rochester, NY	22.39
9.	MCC of the Spirit	Harrisburg, PA	21.26
10.	MCC San Francisco	San Francisco, CA	21.02
11.	MCC Gentle Shepherd	Vancouver, WA	20.81
12.	MCC Rockville	Rockville, MD	20.42
13.	MCC Long Beach	Long Beach, CA	20.34
14.	MCC Key West	Key West, FL	18.48
15.	Church of the Resurrection	Chicago, IL	18.45
16.	Christ Chapel MCC	Santa Ana, CA	18.24
17.	MCC/Charlottesville	Charlottesville, VA	17.82
18.	MCC Ocean of Life	Costa Mesa, CA	17.70
19.	MCC of the Redwoods	Mill Valley, CA	17.32
20.	Vieux Carre MCC	New Orleans, LA	17.04

Praises

Praise God! Rev. Jeri Ann Harvey reports that after 3 months of constant testing, doctors have definitely determined that her spouse, Jane Kuder, has a benign bone cyst - not cancer as was thought. Hallelujah!

Exciting News! - We have information of 5 New Works that have started with great enthusiasm: Living Springs MCC of Bath, England; Church of Our Saviour MCC, Boca Raton, FL; MCC Hickory, Hickory, NC; MCC of Lawton, Lawton, OK; and MCC Bridgerland, Logan, UT. Congratulations to all of these new churches, and may God bless you as you bring the good news.

A new group in Amsterdam! Harry Vudder, an ex-Episcopalian minister has started to pursue a possible new MCC in Holland! It is hoped the group will hold its first meeting in late September/early October. Please pray that God will bless all who attend.

Congratulations to the students who just completed Samaritan Orientation "Bootcamp"! May God continue to bless you as you minister to others.

Prayers

Prayers are requested for Morning Star MCC, Worcester, Mass. and the family and friends of Rev. Emmett Watkins who died from complications of AIDS on August 25th at 5:00 am. Emmett was a very wonderful, spiritual person, and will be missed greatly by all who knew him.

Prayers are also requested for the family and friends of Rev. Ron Russell-Coons, San Francisco, CA who died on August 25th at 6:00 pm. Please keep Ron's spouse, Chuck in your thoughts and support him with your love. Ron was a very gentle spirit and his warmth and love will be missed.

Please place Rev. Steve Torrance on your prayer list as his home, in Key West, FL, was hit by a lightning bolt on August 18 which left major damage: a melted electrical box, fire damage, and a 5 foot hole in his ceiling. Thank God Steve was not hurt as he was not home at the time.

Hymnals Needed

Dawn of Faith MCC, Houston, Texas is searching for someone who might be able to donate 15-30 Family of God Hymnals. They have 15 other hymnals they would be willing to donate to another church. If you can help them or would like more information, please contact:

C. Lynn Johnson
c/o Dawn of Faith MCC
10595 Telephone Road
Houston, Texas 77075
(713) 991-6766

People of Color Biennial Conference

To do ministry in UFMCC, the Department of People of Color holds a Biennial Conference which enables us to raise funds as well as network, heal, worship, play and bring about harmony between all peoples.

The Theme for the Conference this year is: BUILDING LEADERSHIP IN CHURCH AND SOCIETY.

The following is the tentative schedule for the 1990 Biennial DPOC Leadership Conference, to be held November 9-11, 1990 in Tulsa, Oklahoma:

THURS. NOV 8 - Arrive & Register

FRI. NOV 9 - Worship 9:00am - 10:15am
Plenary 10:30am - 11:00am
Dean Sandra Robinson
DPOC 101 11:00am - 12:30pm
WPHR 101 11:00am - 12:30pm
Keynote Luncheon 12:30 - 2:00pm
Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson
DPOC 201 2:00pm - 3:30pm
WPHR 201 2:00pm - 3:30pm
Vocabularies of Faith 4-6 pm
Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson
People of Color/Society 4-6 pm
Ms. Camille Bell
Dinner 6:00pm - 7:30pm
Worship 8:00pm
Funtime in "T" Town 10:00pm

SAT. NOV 10 - Holy Communion 8:30am
Creating MCC's that 9:15-11:15am
Welcome and Embrace
People of Color
Ms. Judy Kiser & Rev. Lew Broyles
Understanding Who 9:15-11:15am
We Are
Mr. Bernard Barbour

SAT. NOV 10 (Cont'd)
Cultural Sharing Groups 11:30-12:30pm
I AM/HISPANIC/NATIVE AMER/AFRICAN AMER/CAUCASIAN/...
Lunch (on your own) 12:30- 1:30pm
When I Look In The Mirror 1:30-3:30pm
Rev. Shelley Hamilton
Colorism: The Rainbow 1:30-3:30pm
Within; Rev. Darryl Walker
Business Meetings/ 3:45-5:45pm
Concurrent
Plenary: Strides Toward 6:00-7:15pm
Harmony (shared vision business meetings)
Awards Banquet: Keynote
Ms. Camille Bell
Video: Tongues Untied
Discussion (Optional)

SUN. NOV 11 - Worship 11:00am
MCC of Greater Tulsa
Rev. Darlene Garner

The registration fee is $110 by Oct 1, 1990; after Oct 1, the registration fee is $125. This registration includes the Friday Luncheon and the Saturday night Banquet. Please send registration fees to: DPOC, c/o UFMCC, 5300 Santa Monica Blvd., #304, Los Angeles, CA 90029. The conference will be held at the Holiday Inn East in Tulsa, OK; call them to make room reservations at (918) 437-[illegible]60 rates are: 1 to 4 persons per room for $43.31 per night.

Report From UFMCC Board of Pensions

(by Lois Luneburg)

The UFMCC Board of Pensions - USA met in Hollywood, CA in June for their annual meeting. This location allowed us to meet with the Rev. Elders Troy Perry and Don Eastman. Highlights of that meeting are: Received the 1989 Income/Expense Statement which showed an income of $90,885 from interest, church and clergy contributions. Expenses were $21,466 or 23.6% of the income for the year. Expenses were $2,659 under budget with General Conference meeting expenses and Pension Services coming in well under their budgets.

A representative of Pension Services Corporation (PSC) met with us to explain how recent changes in pension law do and do not affect us and to answer questions about the complex technical issues around our Plan. PSC keeps us informed of changing legal requirements, advises us as to what we can and cannot do, to interpret the law and our Plan & Trust Document in managing the Pension, and provide us with actuarial services.

The monthly benefit amount is now at $118 up from the original $59. All participating clergy benefit equally from this plan so at any given time all have the same benefit amount. Actuarial studies will be done every two years with the next one due after the end of 1990. The PSC representative projected that the monthly benefit will show another increase at that time. He said that our income level and investment management are providing for sound growth and the ability to meet our pay out commitment.

The investment policy was reviewed and revised in light of our increased investment base with the objective of increasing the value of the pension fund. Investments will continue to be on the conservative side with a prime concern for the environment and social justice issues.

PSC clarified the possible pension status of clergy who are U.S. citizens who reside and work outside the United States. They are eligible on the same basis as other U.S. citizen clergy who are in the U.S. as long as they make their annual contribution in U.S. dollars and receive any benefit in U.S. dollars.

The Board of Pensions has always had a very flexible and lenient policy for clergy who change their mind and decide to enter the plan after all, or who "just discovered" the paperwork on their desk, etc. These have been consistently allowed and a variety of time payment plans have been worked out for past due amounts. This continues to be our policy so if for whatever reason you are wondering if you can still get in the answer is, "Yes." To do so, write to the Administrator and explain what you would like to do, when you can pay and let her know what information you need. You don't even have to explain why. Send your Election and Beneficiary forms at the same time.

A number of eligible clergy have never sent in these forms. They have been sent to all U.S. credentialed clergy who have met the qualifying requirement of 4 initial, consecutive, active years of service. If, as of December 31, 1989 you had completed 4 consecutive active years of service you have been sent one notice. If you qualified prior to or as of December 31, 1988 you have been sent at least two notices. For pension purposes your licensure anniversary date is December 31 of the year in which you were credentialed.

A new policy is that after two notices any clergyperson who has not returned either the Election or Rejection form will be sent a third and FINAL notice by certified mail that requires your personal signature. The receipt from this will be kept on file.

A summary description of the Plan is now being translated into every day language. Once that is completed it will be reviewed by Pension Services to be sure it is still technically and legally accurate. After any revisions it will be printed and mailed to ALL currently credentialed clergypersons who are U.S. citizens. The CCCC will also be asked to add it to the Clergy Manual. Each time we have been ready to do this before there have been changes in the law that delayed it, PSC assures us we should be able to succeed this time.

Please direct any of your inquiries to:

Lois Luneburg, Administrator
UFMCC Board of Pensions - USA
P.O. Box 107
Arnold, CA 95223

Notice!
Price Change

The Church Services Department of UFMCC announces that there has been a price change on the book, "Things They Never Told You In Sunday School: a primer for the Christian Homosexual", by Rev. David Day. The new price is:

1-4 copies	$8.00 each
5-10 copies	7.75 each
11-20 copies	7.50 each
(Shipping included; USA only)	
21 or more copies	7.00 each
	plus shipping

If you would like to order this book please contact the Church Services Department, UFMCC, 5300 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 304, Los Angeles, CA 90029; (213) 464-5100.

Celebrating 20 Years!

New Life MCC, Berkeley, CA (formerly East Bay MCC) will be celebrating their 20th Anniversary on November 18, 1990. New Life MCC was the fourth MCC to be founded. They are inviting everyone to come and join them for a special day they are calling "The Homecoming; Love and Remembrance", on Sunday November 18, at 12:30 PM. There will be special guests from all over and the day will be a celebration of Faith, Hope and Love. If you cannot be with them but would like to send a card of support please send it to: New Life MCC, 1823 - 9th Street, Berkeley, CA 94710.

Congratulations! New Life MCC, you have come a long way and we pray that God will continue to bless you as your ministry grows in the future.

Note From The Clerk, Board of Elders, UFMCC

The agendas and minutes of the General Council and Board of Elders are mailed to clergy and lay delegates. The materials mailed to clergy delegates are mailed to the most recent address available in the Fellowship Offices. Materials mailed to lay delegates are mailed to the local church with the indication "Attn: Lay Delegate". Technological limitations currently prevent the mailing of materials to the individual addresses of lay delegates.

Agendas of upcoming meetings will be placed in the mail approximately 30 days prior to the meeting. Minutes will be placed in the mail within 60 days of the meeting.

As part of their duties, lay delegates are urged to share these materials with their congregations. In New Works, the "Official Observer" is encouraged to take responsibility for sharing these materials with the congregation.

If you are a clergy delegate and you have not received the agenda for the October General Council meeting and the Minutes of the July Elders Meeting, please call the Fellowship Offices at (213) 464-5100 and ask for a set to be sent to you. If you are a lay delegate please check with your local church to see if a set has arrived, if it has not arrived please contact the Fellowship Offices and we will send one to you.

Praises From Europe

There is much excitement about the Revival in our churches in Europe, not only existing ones but also many new groups are looking towards MCC as their spiritual home.

The model of outreach teams in each of the 8 countries which make up the District may be effective in cross cultural, cross national outreach. One such team in the U.K. and a prospective one covering Scandanavian Norway, Sweden and Denmark means that since January 1990 we have our first church groups in 3 new countries which have not seen MCC before!

In September our first group in Wales begins with MCC Cardiff; our first group in Scotland has already began, MCC Edinburgh. We also will see the first group in the Netherlands, MCC Amsterdam, starting in September/ October.

Please pray for the new pastors and our continued growth in the European North Sea District.

HRCF Seeks Interns

The Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF) is looking for interns for its office in Washington, D.C. Interns work in all program areas including field, political, legislative, lesbian issues, and communications.

"This is a great opportunity for someone interested in lesbian and gay issues, or just in learning how government and politics work," said HRCF political director Eric Rosenthal, who coordinates the intern program. "Interns have an opportunity to make a contribution to the lesbian and gay movement as they work on issues in Congress."

Interns must work at least 20 hours per week for three months. Each is under the direction of a staff member. Interns receive a stipend from the Campaign Fund.

People who have questions or who are interested in applying for internships should contact Anne Theisen at (202) 628-4160 or at HRCF, 1012 - 14th Street, N.W., 6th Floor, Washington, D.C. 20005. The application should include a letter discussing why you want to work at the Campaign Fund and the date you are available to start, a resume and a writing sample.

The application deadline for internships beginning in early 1991 is October 15, 1990. Decisions will be made by the Campaign Fund by the end of October. Applications are also being accepted from intern candidates who want to start later in the year.

Wanted! Materials on Membership

Attention all MCC Churches: If you have a packet or outline that you use to teach Membership Classes the Fellowship Offices would appreciate very much if you could send a copy of these materials to us so that we can accumulate and review the materials in order to develop a resource packet that will be distributed through Church Services. Mr. Adam DeBaugh, District Coordinator of the Mid-Atlantic District, will be coordinating this project.

Please send this information to: Ravi Verma, Dir. of Admin., 5300 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 304, Los Angeles, CA 90029. Thank you for your help.

COMING SOON: More information on General Conference XV, July 14-21, 1991, to be held at The Pointe Tapatio Cliffs, Phoenix, Arizona. Mark your calendars and plan to attend.